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1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
2 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

-----x

3 CLAUDINE FELICIANO,

4 Plaintiff,

5 v.

17 CV 5507 (AKH)

6 CORELOGIC SAFERENT, LLC,

7 Defendant.

8 -----x

New York, N.Y.  
July 18, 2019  
2:30 p.m.

9  
10 Before:

11 HON. ALVIN K. HELLERSTEIN,

12 District Judge

13 APPEARANCES

14 FISHMAN LAW, P.C.

15 Attorneys for Plaintiff Feliciano

16 BY: JAMES FISHMAN

17 KLAFTER OLSEN LESSER, LLP

Attorneys for Plaintiff Feliciano

18 BY: SETH R. LESSER

19 TROUTMAN SANDERS, LLP

Attorneys for Defendant Corelogic

20 BY: SETH R. LESSER



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1 (Case called)

2 THE COURT: Good afternoon.

3 MR. FISHMAN: For the plaintiff, James Fishman,  
4 Fishman Law P.C.

5 MR. LESSER: Also for the plaintiff, Seth Lesser, of  
6 Klafter Olsen Lesser.

7 MR. ST. GEORGE: For the defendant, Timothy St.  
8 George, from the law firm of Troutman Sanders.

9 THE COURT: Be seated, everybody.

10 Plaintiff's motion?

11 MR. FISHMAN: Yes, your Honor.

12 THE COURT: Go ahead. Go to the podium.

13 MR. FISHMAN: Good afternoon, your Honor.

14 This is an action brought under the Fair Credit  
15 Reporting Act, 15 U.S.C. 1681 and specifically 1681(E)(B) which  
16 is the requirement that credit reporting agencies when they  
17 prepare a credit report and that they have reasonable  
18 procedures to assure maximum possible accuracy. That is the  
19 standard that the act sets out. This action is brought under  
20 1681(N) which claims that the violation of (E)(B) was willful.  
21 Plaintiffs in these cases and FCRA cases have the option of  
22 suing under 1681(O) which is for a neglect violation or 1681(N)  
23 for a willful violation or both. And the standard --

24 THE COURT: What have you done?

25 MR. FISHMAN: We've sued under "N" and we are alleging



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1 a willful violation of the statute.

2 THE COURT: So if I find there is no willfulness,  
3 you're out.

4 MR. FISHMAN: If at the end of the merits  
5 determination, if you determine there is no willfulness, you're  
6 correct. There is no lawsuit. We only sought a willfulness  
7 violation.

8 THE COURT: What's the difference in the damages you  
9 get?

10 MR. FISHMAN: Under "O" a plaintiff can get actual  
11 damages, whatever they can prove and that's it. Under "N" they  
12 can get actuals or statutory damages, if they don't have  
13 actuals of a range of 100 to \$1000.

14 THE COURT: Supposing they have actual damages but a  
15 small amount. Are they confined then to actual damages?

16 MR. FISHMAN: If that's all they can prove and they  
17 seek to prove actual damages, they get actuals. They get  
18 statutes if they can't prove actuals. So you don't need to  
19 have actual damage to get the statutory damage if you show a  
20 willful violation.

21 THE COURT: This case is based on people being  
22 deprived of an opportunity to find an apartment because of  
23 wrong information being given out by the credit agency.  
24 Everyone will be damaged.

25 MR. FISHMAN: Everyone will have damage, actual



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1 damage?

2 THE COURT: Yes.

3 MR. FISHMAN: Well, possibly. But the difference  
4 though, the significant difference and why this case is so  
5 well-suited for class treatment is that the negligent claim in  
6 actual damages requires an element of causation. Causation is  
7 only an element of the 1681(0) violation or claim not under  
8 "N". So there is no causation claim at all in this case.

9 THE COURT: Why as a representative of a class are you  
10 foregoing one of the remedies that is available to the class?

11 MR. FISHMAN: Well, for one thing, as the cases have  
12 held, actual damage class action cases are very, very difficult  
13 to certify for one thing because there are so many individual  
14 damage issues.

15 THE COURT: So you are taking your interest as a  
16 lawyer above the interest of your clients.

17 MR. FISHMAN: No. If the client has a minimal actual  
18 damage claim or can't necessarily prove causation, doesn't mean  
19 she doesn't have a lawsuit. She can still sue under "N" and  
20 not have to prove or not prove causation. There is many  
21 situations where a applicant for an apartment can't say  
22 definitively that but for that report, I would have gotten the  
23 apartment. That's a negligence claim requirement. It is not a  
24 requirement in this case.

25 THE COURT: My point, Mr. Fishman, is that willfulness



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1 is hard to prove.

2 MR. FISHMAN: It's harder.

3 THE COURT: It's hard to prove generally. It's hard  
4 to prove. And negligence is much easier to prove.

5 MR. FISHMAN: The FCRA, your Honor, I disagree because  
6 there are two more elements in a negligence claim that you  
7 don't have in a willfulness claim. Have you causation and  
8 actual damage which you don't have in a willful claim.

9 And let's be clear, the standard that the Supreme  
10 Court has set for willfulness is not intentional.

11 THE COURT: Let that be so but still there's another  
12 remedy that you are foregoing.

13 MR. FISHMAN: I don't know that there's a requirement  
14 that any plaintiff in a purported class has to avail himself of  
15 every possible remedy that might be out there. Sometimes if  
16 you choose too many remedies that's grounds to not certify a  
17 class at all. So you wouldn't have a class if you elected more  
18 remedies than would result in certification because of all the  
19 individual issues. So certainly any member of the class is  
20 able to opt-out. If they want to bring an actual damage claim,  
21 they certainly can opt-out. We're no where near that stage.  
22 But for the purposes of where we are now, where we're seeking  
23 certification on the claims that we have asserted, there is  
24 really no reason why this plaintiff shouldn't be able to  
25 proceed on a willfulness claim for statutory damage and



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1 punitive damage for a willful violation, which as the Supreme  
2 Court said is governed by a reckless disregard standard, not an  
3 intentional standard. It's not the same willfulness in common  
4 law. Under the statute it is a much lower level of conduct.  
5 As a reckless disregard meaning that you're aware of the issue.  
6 You are aware of the law's requirements and you recklessly  
7 disregard your obligation to comply with it.

8 And in this case --

9 THE COURT: You are complaining that these are  
10 misleading because they don't have up-to-date information and  
11 the updated information often cancels out what is alleged in  
12 the court action.

13 MR. FISHMAN: Well, misleading. It's --

14 THE COURT: But supposing the defendant says, well, I  
15 did the best I could --

16 MR. FISHMAN: That's a reasonableness question which  
17 is a question for a jury to determine hearing all of the  
18 evidence as to what they had --

19 THE COURT: I understand but it negates willfulness.

20 MR. FISHMAN: If their finding was that they acted  
21 reasonably, yes, it would negate any necessary lawsuit if the  
22 procedures were found to be reasonable, of course. But we  
23 believe that this case is unique in the sense that this  
24 defendant was sued previously for the exact same thing.

25 In 2004 Mr. Lesser is and I brought a case called



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1 White against First American Saferent. They are the  
2 predecessor of this defendant. And in that case we alleged  
3 virtually the exact same violation as we have here. In  
4 Mr. White's case he had been sued for nonpayment of rent and a  
5 week later the case was he resolved and it never appeared any  
6 further and it was dismissed. Six years later the defendant  
7 reported to a prospective landlord that Mr. White had been sued  
8 in that case and the status field is identical to the one in  
9 this case which said "case filed".

10 We litigated that case for three years. Judge Kaplan  
11 heard the case. And it finally settled with a class-wide  
12 settlement with a certified class and an injunction. And they  
13 agreed that they would report dispositions of these housing  
14 court cases going forward. And now in 2015 when our client,  
15 when the plaintiff was the subject of a report we have the  
16 exact same problem. So if that's not willful --

17 THE COURT: There's a violation of the previous order.

18 MR. FISHMAN: No. We are not seeking to implicate a  
19 violation of the order. We brought a new action. The  
20 injunction I believe was a three-year term. And that expired I  
21 believe in '09 or '10. So we couldn't bring something to  
22 enforce that order.

23 But the point of it, judge, was that they were well on  
24 notice that this is a problem and that they have to report  
25 dispositions of New York City housing court cases and they



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1 don't. And we found in 66 percent of the cases where they've  
2 prepared a report in the two-year class period, there were 4600  
3 reports that they prepared. We went and reviewed the court  
4 records and we found that in 66 percent of those instances  
5 there was actually a disposition that occurred in the case, in  
6 that housing court case prior to the time they issued a report  
7 saying "case filed".

8 That I believe is more than enough to establish that  
9 we've got uniformity. We've got numerosity. We've got all of  
10 the element of Rule 23A in this case and we also meet the  
11 adequacy and the superiority under 23(B)(3).

12 THE COURT: All right. Let me hear what Mr. St.  
13 George says. I'll come back to you if I need to.

14 MR. FISHMAN: Thank you, judge.

15 MR. ST. GEORGE: Good afternoon, your Honor.

16 THE COURT: Afternoon.

17 MR. ST. GEORGE: Your Honor, this is a case about our  
18 procedures and you've heard nothing about them. That is  
19 because they varied and the relevant inquiry whether we  
20 willfully violated the FCRA as to any particular class member  
21 would vary depending on the circumstances of the record that  
22 was reported, the time and how it was collected by Corelogic,  
23 how it was updated thereafter, how was audited thereafter,  
24 which entity collected it because there's a distinction in the  
25 class period here of different entities that collected. It was



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1 initially Corelogic and then turned over to another vendor.  
2 All of these facts would relevant to our defense. All parties  
3 agree that if an objective assessment are reasonableness. And  
4 like most reasonableness determinations this is not subject to  
5 a categorical resolution divorced from the circumstances of the  
6 individual records and reporting.

7 It's simply not something and to be clear the majority  
8 of the cases to consider EV classes have rejected them finding  
9 that this provision of a statute is not amenable class  
10 treatment. We cannot resolve all of these questions in one  
11 fell swoop.

12 Let me give you a number of examples as to how  
13 Corelogic would defend any particular case brought against it  
14 for any particular class member and recognize as well, your  
15 Honor, that if there are multiple records reported on a  
16 particular report we would defend each one of them. There is  
17 no way this can be resolved in mass.

18 The first way that we would with defend this case is  
19 we would look at when was the record collected versus the time  
20 that it was reported? Because that's material. That could be  
21 reasonable. If there's a really short delta in that time  
22 period then when we went to the public access terminal to  
23 collect the record, if there's a short period of time that  
24 elapses thereafter and the courts reported, well then, a jury  
25 could well find that factor favoring reasonableness and that



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1 happened here.

2 Ms. Feliciano's record was collected three weeks  
3 before was reported. That's it. And that fact would vary for  
4 every single class member. There's no way that you could try  
5 that issue in mass because you'd have to go into the metadata  
6 for each of our reporting and figure out when was this  
7 collected directly at the court house --

8 THE COURT: There is an argument against willfulness  
9 rather than an attack on commonality.

10 MR. ST. GEORGE: It's an attack on commonality because  
11 this issue would be non common. You would have to look at each  
12 specific class member's report in terms of when it was  
13 collected versus when it was generated.

14 Let's talk about our procedures. So the record shows  
15 that Corelogic for each of those records after it collected it  
16 directly at the courthouse, mindful, the same way they that  
17 claim a class should be certified here. This is all they've  
18 done. They've gone to the same public access terminals that we  
19 use but somehow they claim that that's a rigorous procedure for  
20 purposes of certification but it willfully violates the FCRA.

21 THE COURT: I don't understand.

22 MR. ST. GEORGE: It's a completely hypocritical  
23 argument for them to make.

24 THE COURT: I don't understand.

25 MR. ST. GEORGE: Their class list that they proffered



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1 to you, they sent two untrained researchers to the public  
2 access terminals to look up cases that they had requested to  
3 see in discovery and they wrote down what they saw. They did  
4 that in 2019 of course and they are trying to make  
5 representations about what the terminal might have reflected  
6 going back to 2015 because there is literally no evidence as to  
7 what it reflected at the time that it collected it.

8 That's the same process Corelogic used. Corelogic  
9 sent its field researchers directly to the terminal. How can  
10 they get up and say that was a willful violation of the FCRA,  
11 but use that same process to certify a class? Let me tell you  
12 about --

13 THE COURT: This goes to whether or not there was  
14 willfulness.

15 MR. ST. GEORGE: No, because -- well, that  
16 hypocritical point is whether or not they could even use this  
17 same process to certify a class that they'll have to impugn at  
18 trial. They should be estopped from doing that.

19 THE COURT: I don't understand the connection.

20 MR. ST. GEORGE: OK. Using the same process they've  
21 proposed class lists to you. Those class lists were generated  
22 by going the New York City Public Access terminals, punching in  
23 case numbers and writing town the information that's reflected  
24 for the cases. That is the same process that Corelogic used to  
25 generate these underlying reports. Now, that process would



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1 vary when you get down to the actual reporting because you'd  
2 have to determine, well, for instance when did we collect it  
3 versus when did we report it?

4 Actually, our process is a lot stronger than the  
5 process that they used as well too because we didn't just stop  
6 when we collected a record. Without a disposition, your Honor,  
7 we went back every month for six months to see whether or not  
8 that record then had a disposition associated with it.

9 So why is that relevant for class? Well, for every  
10 record that we reported that they proposed to have on their  
11 class list, based on the date that it was collected versus the  
12 time that it was reported Corelogic may have gone back one  
13 month to see if there has been a disposition. It may have gone  
14 back two, three, four, five, six times. That would vary for  
15 every single record at issue here. It is not something that's  
16 amenable to class resolution.

17 and as the defense we'd be entitled to present  
18 consistent with our due process. You'd also have to look at  
19 the records themselves which would be relevant. Here for the  
20 plaintiff for instance, by the time that Corelogic collected  
21 the record it was nine months old. Nine months old and it  
22 didn't have a disposition, which is common. Even plaintiff's  
23 class risks reflect housing court cases that have gone on for  
24 years without a disposition seeming abandoned by the parties.

25 Corelogic would be entitled to argue that viewing a



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1 record at a public access terminal that is nine months old at  
2 the time that it's reported is a material fact to determine the  
3 reasonableness of reporting that record without a disposition.  
4 We've submitted record evidence establishing that in historical  
5 experience of our field researchers that these cases generally  
6 went to disposition and are abandoned within six months. But  
7 the age of record at the time that it was reported, meaning how  
8 old it was when it was collected and then reported, would again  
9 vary for every single class member.

10 There's also a lot of failings of proof in this case,  
11 your Honor, discovery that simply wasn't taken and it's far to  
12 late to take a now. So the liability theory that the  
13 plaintiffs are advancing here is that Corelogic should have  
14 somehow back stopped going directly to the public access  
15 terminals at the courthouse. So going to the courthouse itself  
16 in viewing these records and collecting them that we should  
17 have somehow back stopped this process with a data feed from  
18 the Office of Court Administration. That's their liability  
19 theory. But they didn't get the data feed. It's never been  
20 produced in this case. Nobody has ever seen it. So to even  
21 try their liability theory you would have to see whether or not  
22 the record was even in the OCA data feed for purposes of then  
23 supplementing our activity. But there's no record of what the  
24 OCA data feed would then reflect.

25 You can't get to trial on a class basis because they



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1 don't have the data. And even if they did have the data, you'd  
2 have to look at every single version of that electronic data  
3 feed to see whether or not it was even possible to supplement  
4 any data being reported by Corelogic.

5 So you have blaring issues of proof. There's also  
6 multiple vendors involved during this time period. Corelogic  
7 started reporting these records -- the class here, your Honor,  
8 goes back to 2015. That's the proposed class period. And from  
9 2015 beforehand until 2017 Corelogic was sending its own field  
10 researchers to the public access terminals.

11 In 2017 there's a switch. They start using  
12 LexisNexis. LexisNexis in turn has its own subcontractor that  
13 use called NYE that's going and collecting the records for  
14 LexisNexis. There is no discovered at NYE. They didn't take  
15 it. So you've got class members that implicate a vendor that  
16 they've taken no discovery of in this entire case and whose  
17 procedures with respect to the little discovery they did  
18 conduct with LexisNexis had been shown to vary from the  
19 procedures of Corelogic.

20 There not even continuity in terms of practices,  
21 vendors, et cetera and they simply didn't take any discovery.  
22 They tried, your Honor. They moved to reopen discovery after  
23 class certification briefing closed but your Honor denied that  
24 motion for lack of diligence in terms of discovering any  
25 information further from LexisNexis and NYE.



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1           The other thing I want to mention too, your Honor,  
2 talking about how this case would be tried. So you've got the  
3 differences and the collection date versus reporting dates.  
4 You've got the differences and age of the records at the time  
5 that their collected and reported. You've got the differences  
6 in terms of how many update cycles were applied to each record.  
7 You've also got audits that are conducted by Corelogic of  
8 records. Meaning that every month Corelogic would also  
9 generate a random list of cases and send out a supervisor to go  
10 view that record again at the public access terminal to see  
11 whether or not it had been accurately keyed into its system.

12           So again, we'd be able to test for any particular  
13 class member that they proposed whether that class member's  
14 record was audited. None of this is capable of class-wide  
15 resolution, let alone the distinctions between the vendors that  
16 simply weren't just discovered in this case.

17           There's also really systemic problems with the class  
18 lists themselves, your Honor, that have been proposed to you  
19 today. So those class lists which were attached, proposed  
20 class lists are attached as Exhibit 29 and 30 to the motion for  
21 a class certification. And basically, they delineate their two  
22 lay witnesses that they hired in the middle of this litigation  
23 to go to public access terminals and write down information  
24 about cases. So we've already identified errors in their data  
25 transcription and we've presented those in our opposition



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1       briefs. We've tested just a small sample of what they  
2       collected. It was not possible during the time period we had  
3       for our opposition to try and run down all the records. So we  
4       tested about 200 and found errors in a number of them. We  
5       presented some of those to the Court.

6               But there's also really other systemic issues with the  
7       class list. So their class definition, your Honor, depends on  
8       a specific type of disposition being that was apparently in the  
9       underlying paper file but that we didn't report. So in order  
10      to be a class member under the class definition proposed  
11      amended complaint you have to have had a judgment or a case  
12      that was reported without a disposition by Corelogic where in  
13      fact despite apparently no showing up on the public access  
14      terminal, that there had been a disposition of a  
15      discontinuance, a withdrawal or a dismissal. That's it. It's  
16      those three.

17             The class lists make no distinction among types of  
18      dispositions. There's no record as to the class members that  
19      would even meet their own class definition. All they've done  
20      for you is to go to the public access terminal and to see  
21      whether or not they apparently found a disposition. But that's  
22      not the class. That type of disposition could be judgment in  
23      favor of the landlord. But that's not their class. Their  
24      class is limited to specific types of disposition and they  
25      aren't a part of the record and apparently that they never



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1 sought a discovery.

2 But wait. There's even more problems with their class  
3 lists. So just last Friday I was produced documents for the  
4 first time. Six months after close of discovery I get an e-mail  
5 from Mr. Fishman's firm that attaches some PDF documents and  
6 Excel spreadsheets. Again, I don't know why they were produced  
7 for the first time last Friday. But they showed something  
8 pretty interesting. They showed that their field researchers  
9 if a case was listed as inactive meaning it wasn't active in  
10 the court system any more, they viewed that as a disposition.  
11 So those people are a part of their class. And that's a big  
12 problem because that's not a disposition. Inactivity of an  
13 underlying court record is not a disposition. It's not a  
14 dismissal. It's not a discontinuance. it's not a withdrawal.  
15 In fact, it's not anything. It's not a disposition. So that  
16 late document production showed some serious errors.

17 You could see that for instance with respect to the  
18 named plaintiffs. OK? So if you take the named plaintiff's  
19 record. It shows up on Exhibit 29. It's a lengthy  
20 spreadsheet. You go down to row 862, that's Ms. Feliciano. It  
21 doesn't say her by name but it's got her case number. So it's  
22 the case that she is challenging, the one that she says makes  
23 her an adequate and typical as representative class. If you  
24 scroll over to the side it says there's a disposition of  
25 May 29, 2015. But that's not true.



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1           If you look at the actual screen shot of the court  
2 terminal that they presented for you at Exhibit 28 to their  
3 motion for class certification it just says it's inactive.  
4 It's an inactive case. So the named plaintiff using the  
5 process that they described that they propose for class  
6 certification does not even meet the standard of the class  
7 definition. Because her case is apparently inactive on the  
8 public access terminal. It's not dismissed. It's not  
9 withdrawn. It's not discontinued.

10           And this is a huge problem not just for Ms.~ Feliciano  
11 because the proof they presented to the class or to you for her  
12 does not even meet the class definition that they proposed.  
13 The public access terminal doesn't show a dismissal or  
14 discontinuance or a withdrawal for her. It shows inactivity.

15           What does it show inactivity for? Conversion. And  
16 that's because the systems and the public access terminals were  
17 being converted at this time. This is a huge and systemic  
18 problem where they've apparently taken the code of inactive and  
19 marked that as a disposition for untold numbers of class  
20 members. Again, we don't have any idea in the record as to how  
21 many people --

22           THE COURT: I think I've got your position.

23           MR. ST. GEORGE: OK. There's two other big picture  
24 issues here as well that are issue for purposes for class  
25 certification. So all those issues are how would the case



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1 possibly be tried on a class-wide basis. Two other issues  
2 here.

3 The first as I mentioned is they haven't actually  
4 presented any proof of the class. The spreadsheets are --

5 THE COURT: Say that again.

6 MR. ST. GEORGE: The spreadsheets that they've given  
7 you, Exhibits 29 and 30 they say they're the class, that's  
8 their proposed class list, they just reflect whether or not  
9 there's been a disposition. OK? But their class definition  
10 requires it to have been a specific type of class. It has to  
11 be a discontinuance or a withdrawal or dismissal. So you don't  
12 actually any proof of anyone that meets their own class  
13 definition according to their own record evidence that they've  
14 built for you today.

15 The other issue here is they went and gathered this  
16 information in 2019. So they sent their field researchers to  
17 the terminals that they hired at the very end of discovery  
18 period, never disclosed to us. So they send these people and  
19 they finish up their work apparently in 2019 and they are  
20 looking at public access terminals. Whereas, Corelogic was  
21 looking at the same public access terminals all the way back to  
22 2019 which is when his class period starts. And they say  
23 uh-huh, there's a disposition of the public access terminal in  
24 2019. Therefore, there is an inaccuracy and we can prove that  
25 one of multiple elements of our claim. But there is no



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1 correlation between what was shown on the public access  
2 terminal in 2015. These public access terminals of course are  
3 subject to change by the courts and there's no evidence they  
4 took no discovery of the court system at all. They did not  
5 depose a single representative.

6 THE COURT: I think you've made these points already.

7 MR. ST. GEORGE: So all I'm saying to finish up, your  
8 Honor, is that what they've presented to you as evidence of an  
9 inaccuracy with the public access terminal isn't evidence of  
10 what the public access terminal showed in 2015, 2016, 2017,  
11 2018 and is there no evidence as what the terminal showed.

12 THE COURT: I believe that the defendant's argument  
13 against certification is an argument that the merits of the  
14 case can't be won by the plaintiff. That's premature at this  
15 point. I think the requirements of Rule 23 are satisfied.

16 There is numerosity I think if I accept the definition  
17 of commonality and person jurisdiction, standing, there's  
18 typicality, class representatives are adequate and the class  
19 issues I believe predominate over the individual issues. The  
20 class members are ascertainable although there seems to be some  
21 dispute as to who they are and I think all these criteria of  
22 Rule 11 is met. We'll write our order in a few days and issue  
23 it.

24 All right. So let me ask you this, Mr. Fishman,  
25 assuming you get such favorable order, what's the next step?



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1 MR. FISHMAN: Well, your Honor, what remains  
2 outstanding is we have yet to do any expert discovery.

3 THE COURT: What are you going to do about mailing the  
4 notice?

5 MR. FISHMAN: Well, we need the names from the  
6 defendant. They haven't given that to us. They have the names  
7 from their spreadsheet. We had originally asked for the actual  
8 reports then he had refused.

9 THE COURT: So they've given you the names?

10 MR. FISHMAN: The names and the last known address.

11 THE COURT: OK. How many are there?

12 MR. FISHMAN: 2600.

13 THE COURT: All right. So you are going to mail it to  
14 them?

15 MR. FISHMAN: Yes, we would do a mailing.

16 THE COURT: Are you going to do a form notice?

17 MR. FISHMAN: Yes.

18 THE COURT: Is that the next step?

19 MR. FISHMAN: Well, in that process, yes, but the  
20 class purposes, yes, for the litigation.

21 THE COURT: When are you going to issue the notice to  
22 the class?

23 MR. FISHMAN: Whenever your Honor tells us we'll do  
24 it.

25 THE COURT: Soon?



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1 MR. FISHMAN: 60 days.

2 THE COURT: OK. So the next procedure is to submit to  
3 me a form of class notice after clearing it with defendant and  
4 ask me to sign it and that will be the next step.

5 MR. FISHMAN: OK.

6 THE COURT: And then the class will be identified  
7 according to opt-outs.

8 How about the litigation itself?

9 MR. FISHMAN: Well, as I said, your Honor, we have yet  
10 to do the expert discovery. That was put aside.

11 THE COURT: What's the expert discovery going to tell  
12 us?

13 MR. FISHMAN: Well, we have an expert, likely, we'll  
14 have two experts. One on the New York City Housing Court  
15 system which is the expert that was certified by Judge  
16 Engelmayer in the Winning case, as well as by Judge Kaplan in  
17 the White case. And also an expert on the computer systems  
18 itself because one of things we're alleging here is that they  
19 had this electronic data feed.

20 THE COURT: Apart from the two experts, what else do  
21 we need before you are ready for trial?

22 MR. FISHMAN: I assume there is going to be a  
23 dispositive motion on other either side but --

24 THE COURT: Have you finished your depositions?

25 MR. FISHMAN: We did all the deposition of the fact



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1 witnesses. The last two were done this week of the people that  
2 had done our spreadsheets.

3 THE COURT: Mr. St. George, are you planning to have a  
4 motion for summary judgment?

5 MR. ST. GEORGE: Most likely, your Honor, yes.

6 THE COURT: You are not sure?

7 MR. ST. GEORGE: I would suspect that we would.

8 THE COURT: And is it necessary to have the expert  
9 discovery before you make your motion?

10 MR. ST. GEORGE: Most likely, your Honor, yes.

11 THE COURT: So you've got to go to go ahead with your  
12 expert discovery. Are you going to have any experts?

13 MR. ST. GEORGE: Most likely, yes. We would entertain  
14 probably having an expert. First of all, there would have been  
15 to be an opportunity for rebuttal of whatever experts.

16 THE COURT: It would be two rounds and I'd like you to  
17 discuss the two rounds and give me an order that establishes  
18 the dates.

19 MR. FISHMAN: Do you want us to submit that to you?  
20 We'll talk amongst ourselves and get you an order.

21 THE COURT: Right.

22 MR. FISHMAN: Your Honor, I --

23 THE COURT: The dates will be binding. No  
24 adjournments.

25 MR. ST. GEORGE: Your Honor, I also anticipate there



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1 will at least for a motion for Rule 23(F) appeal if you  
2 certified a class. Obviously, that could delay proceedings as  
3 well.

4 THE COURT: Who decides that?

5 MR. ST. GEORGE: The motion will be presented to the  
6 Second Circuit. It's an interlocutory appeal as a matter of  
7 right. They have the discretion of whether or not to hear it.  
8 First of all, I think we'll need to see your order. There may  
9 a basis for reconsideration of your order.

10 THE COURT: Don't make a motion. Take it up with the  
11 Second Circuit.

12 MR. ST. GEORGE: Well, I even think there's  
13 fundamental issues that aren't being addressed here. The case  
14 can't be tried as a class but who would be in the class? Are  
15 these inactive individuals, for instance, class members. We  
16 don't have any class debt. We don't know who is dismissed,  
17 discontinued or withdrawn or who are we sending the notice to.  
18 There is no record of that.

19 THE COURT: Mr. Fishman, who is getting the notice?

20 MR. FISHMAN: The 2600 people that we identified.

21 MR. ST. GEORGE: But they are a not class members.

22 THE COURT: Don't argue with each other.

23 MR. FISHMAN: The 2600 people that we've identified  
24 who are the subject of a report where a disposition occurred  
25 prior to the time the report was issued.



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1 THE COURT: That's the class, isn't it?

2 MR. ST. GEORGE: That's not the class.

3 THE COURT: That's the class, isn't it?

4 MR. ST. GEORGE: That's not the class. The class is  
5 those individuals -- so you can have people getting a class  
6 notice where the judgment was in favor of the landlord. This  
7 is not possible that these people could have suffered any harm.

8 THE COURT: We could work that out as we --

9 MR. FISHMAN: Judge, I think it's a simple solution  
10 here.

11 THE COURT: We've got the solution. You've got the  
12 2600 members.

13 MR. FISHMAN: That's the solution.

14 MR. ST. GEORGE: But those aren't the class members.

15 THE COURT: I've heard enough. All right. So we'll  
16 issue the order. The defendant will probably file an appeal  
17 but during that appeal I want you to do your expert discovery.  
18 I would like a submission by Wednesday. Give me the dates for  
19 the experts' discovery.

20 MR. FISHMAN: The 24th, I believe.

21 MR. LESSER: If I may, your Honor, I've discovered  
22 over the years that judges have different views on length of  
23 opt-out period.

24 THE COURT: I don't have any particular views.

25 MR. LESSER: We'll suggest something.



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1 THE COURT: Work it out together.

2 MR. LESSER: Thank you.

3 So we can't send out the class notice until the appeal  
4 is exhausted.

5 MR. FISHMAN: I don't know what the timeframe is for  
6 them to even take an appeal.

7 THE COURT: I think the Second Circuit if it takes the  
8 matter would like to see a notice, a proposed notice. So work  
9 that out. You're going to move ahead on the numbers and move  
10 to settle the notice. The defendant's going to move to the  
11 Second Circuit to see if he can file an appeal. You are going  
12 to give me a set of dates for your expert discovery and we'll  
13 finish all discovery in the case, right?

14 MR. FISHMAN: That should do it.

15 THE COURT: Right?

16 MR. ST. GEORGE: Yes, your Honor.

17 MR. FISHMAN: By the 24th you want the names of the  
18 experts and the schedule?

19 MR. ST. GEORGE: I think that's the schedule.

20 THE COURT: It's a schedule. And one of the dates  
21 will be when you identify your expert when you give me your  
22 report. I want this to move forward until a time when you are  
23 finished so I can have a status conference with you after  
24 you've finished all of these proceedings and decided where to  
25 go.



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1           If there is an appeal and the Second Circuit makes the  
2 determination about that, then we'll know where we are in  
3 trying the case.

4           OK. Did I cover everything?

5           MR. FISHMAN: I believe so, judge.

6           MR. ST. GEORGE: My only question is again, relates to  
7 the class notice. Who is the class at this point?

8           THE COURT: The 2600 people.

9           MR. ST. GEORGE: OK.

10          THE COURT: OK. Folks, thanks.

11          (Adjourned)